At page 11, line 35 through page 12, line 4, delete all of the material beginning with the first full sentence starting with the word "The" and ending with "vasculature."

At page 12, lines 12-14, delete the sentence beginning with "The" and ending with "Fig. 1."

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 1 prior to examination of the application.

36. A method for delivering an intravascular stent in a patient's body lumen, comprising:

a. providing an intravascular stent delivery assembly comprising:

an elongated catheter having a proximal end and a distal end and an expandable member for expanding a stent; the elongated catheter having a guide wire passageway extending for a least a portion therethrough from a first port at the catheter distal end and a second port positioned between the catheter proximal end and a point proximal of the expandable member; an inflation lumen extends from the catheter proximal end to an interior space within the expandable member; and a stent removably mounted on the expandable member;

b. advancing the stent delivery assembly into the patient's body lumen;

c. positioning the stent at a desired location in the patient's body lumen;

d. inflating the expandable member by injecting inflation fluid through the inflation lumen;

e. expanding and implanting the stent in the patient's body lumen;

f. deflating the expandable member by withdrawing the inflation fluid through the inflation lumen; and

g. withdrawing the stent delivery catheter assembly from the patient.

37. The method of claim 36, wherein the stent is implanted in the patient's coronary vasculature.

38. The method of claim 36, wherein the stent is implanted in the coronary arteries.

39. The method of claim 36, wherein the stent is implanted in the patient's peripheral vasculature.

40. The method of claim 36, wherein the stent is implanted in the peripheral arteries.

41. The method of claim 36, wherein the step of providing the stent delivery assembly includes the elongated catheter having a slit extending distally from the second port.

42. The method of claim 41, wherein during the withdrawing step, the guide wire pulls through the slit.

43. The method of claim 36, wherein the advancing step further comprises inserting a proximal end of the guide wire into the first port of the catheter and then advancing the stent delivery assembly over the guide wire so that the guide wire slides through the guide wire passageway until the guide wire proximal end exits the catheter second port.

9 44. The method of claim 43, wherein the advancing step further comprises advancing the catheter over the guide wire by holding the guide wire stationary and advancing the catheter distally over the guide wire into the patient's body lumen.

10 45. The method of claim 36, wherein during the advancing step, as the stent delivery assembly advances over the guide wire, the guide wire proximal end slides along a ramp in the guide wire passageway to direct the guide wire proximal end out of the catheter second port.

11 46. The method of claim 36, wherein the step of providing the elongated catheter further comprises a stiffened proximal section of the catheter extending for at least a portion of the elongated catheter.

12 47. The method of claim 46, wherein the providing step further comprises a stiffening member positioned within a stiffening member passsageway extending for at least a portion of the elongated catheters.

13 48. The method of claim 47, wherein the step of providing the elongated catheter further comprises a plug positioned within the catheter for separating the guide wire passageway and the stiffening member passageway.

49. The method of claim 46, wherein during the advancing step, the stiffening mandrel provides increased column strength to the stent delivery catheter assembly and thereby increased pushability in advancing the stent delivery catheter assembly through the patient's body lumen.

50. The method of claim 36, wherein prior to the advancing step, dilating a stenosed region of the body lumen.

51. The method of claim 50, wherein the dilatation step includes percutaneous transluminal angioplasty.

52. The method of claim 50, wherein the dilatation step includes percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty.

53. The method of claim 50, wherein after the dilatation step, leaving the guide wire in the body lumen with the distal end of the guide wire distal of the dilated region.

54. A method for delivering an intravascular stent in a patient's body lumen, comprising:

a. dilating a stenosed region in the patient's body lumen using a dilatation catheter;

b. withdrawing the dilatation catheter over a previouslyy positioned guide wire;

c. maintaining the guide wire in position in the patient's body lumen so that a distal end of the guide wire remains distal of the dilated region;

d. providing an intravascular stent delivery assembly comprising:

an elongated catheter having a proximal end and a distal end and an expandable member for expanding a stent; the elongated catheter having a guide wire passageway extending for a least a portion therethrough from a first port at the catheter distal end and a second port positioned between the catheter proximal end and a point proximal of the expandable member; an inflation lumen extends from the catheter proximal end to an interior space within the expandable member; and a stent removably mounted on the expandable member;

e. advancing the stent delivery assembly into the patient's body lumen;

f. positioning the stent at a desired location in the patient's body lumen;

g. inflating the expandable member by injecting inflation fluid through the inflation lumen;

h. expanding and implanting the stent in the patient's body lumen;

i. deflating the expandable member by withdrawing the inflation fluid through the inflation lumen; and

j. withdrawing the stent delivery catheter assembly from the patient.

REMARKS

This application is a divisional of U.S. Serial 09/136,982 filed August 20, 1998, which is a divisional application of U.S. Serial No. 09/119,344 filed July 20, 1998, which is a divisional application of U.S. Serial No. 08/630,528, which issued at U.S. Patent No. 5,782,855 on July 21, 1998, which was a divisional application of U.S. Serial No. 08/085,959, which issued as U.S. Patent No. 5,507,768 on April 16, 1996, which was a continuation-in-part application of U.S. Serial No. 07/647,464 filed January 28, 1991, now abandoned.

Claims 36-54 are now pending in the application. Claim 1 has been canceled. The subject matter of the claims is fully supported by the originally filed application, namely, U.S. Serial No. 07/647,464 filed January 28, 1991, in which inventors Lilip Lau and William Hartigan were the named inventors. Subsequently, a continuation-in-part application (U.S. Serial No. 08/085,959) was filed in which a third